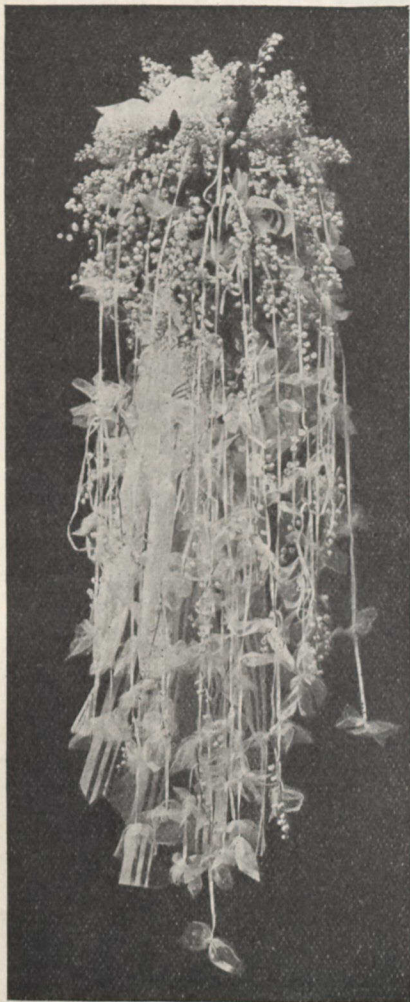


THE BRIDAL FLOWERS

A Consideration of the Floral Features of the Wedding

By GEORGE M. GERAGHTY

Of Dunlop's, Toronto



"EMPIRE" SHOWER
The most Popular of Brides' Bouquets. Carried
in the hollow of the arm.



BOUQUET FOR MATRON-OF-HONOR
Bouquet for Matron-of-Honor made up of sweet
peas and maidenhair fern.

THERE are two months in each year that are particularly given over to brides—June and September. Why these months are claimed by the fair brides can hardly be explained, but for the florist no better months could be selected. June brides are especially fortunate as regards the floral embellishment necessary to all smart weddings. All kinds of flowers are plentiful, and the expense much less than in the winter months.

The most important thing after the gown is the bouquet, and it is here that the real art of the florist comes into play. It is very easy for anyone to "bunch" a few flowers, tie them with a ribbon and call it a bride's bouquet, but to so arrange the same flowers that they will at once become a part of the gown and be the finishing touch to the costume requires not an education in making bouquets, but a "knack" of knowing just "how." The bride's bouquet should be made light and "airy," the handle should be small, and when "showered" the shower should be graceful and in keeping with the flowers used.

The two smartest bouquets are the "Empire" shower, which is carried in the hollow of the arm, and the Marie Antoinette, or round bouquet, to be carried directly in front. The Empire is made to come to a point, and lie flat against the gown, not to project in front, as is sometimes seen when made by florists who have not the "knack." The shower falls gracefully to the hem of the gown, and the whole bouquet should not weigh over a pound. This is an important item when you consider that the effect of a heavy bouquet is to add to the fatigue of the bride.

The Marie Antoinette is made after the style of the old-fashioned bouquet of our grandmothers, only the flowers are arranged loosely, the handle is very small and easily carried in the hand. This bouquet can be made of valley (as illustrated) or roses, sweet peas or other small flowers may be used. It is used with or without the shower, although for formal church weddings it is better with the shower. The very light, airy, graceful effect is easily seen in all these arrangements.

The Louis XIV. is a different effect, and is made only to carry in the arm. This is for less formal and home weddings. The same style is also made, using valley and roses combined.

Next after the bride's bouquet comes that of the maids and flower girls. Here there is more of a chance for individuality, but in all cases the flowers should be as near the color of the gown as possible, in which case the ribbons should be a perfect match or else the flowers should be a sharp contrast. In the latter case the ribbons should match the flowers perfectly. Baskets made of crushed straw hats, empire staffs, shepherd's crooks, etc., may be used, but it depends mostly on the number of bridesmaids attending. When only one or two are in attendance the arm bouquet is the best; but if four or six then baskets, crooks, etc., make a smarter effect. The illustrations of baskets are designed for flower girls, the one with handle to be carried on the arm, and the other with ribbon to go over the shoulder and hang at the side. The decorations at the church and house may be as elaborate as the purse of the bride's family will allow; but the quiet but effective style is at all times the best. The place at the home set aside for receiving should be the principal decoration at the house, and the rest of the house be but a continuation of this. The smartest this season is the colonial canopy, made very stately and with a shower effect hanging over the fair occupant.

The bride's table comes next, and here only white flowers should be used, and the arrangement light and graceful. The custom of having a huge wedding cake as a centre is fast disappearing, this

article being placed on a small table at the rear or close to the bride, and its former place of honor being occupied by well-arranged flowers, either low or very high, so that an unobstructed view of all may be had by the bride. When more than one table is used the remaining ones should have decorations to match the bridesmaids' flowers. But care should be taken to arrange them so that the effect upon entering the room should be a blending of color, the darkest near the door, and blending in to the pure white of the bride's.



Flowers and Fancies

AT the country wedding, where it is difficult to obtain cut flowers, the decorations from the home garden may be made most attractive. An apple-blossom wedding in May is one of the prettiest sights imaginable, when the fragrance of the pink-touched sprays fills the orchards of the land. Then the bride of June has such a wealth of roses to adorn the occasion, with color and perfume, for most of us still believe that "the queen of all the flowers that be" is the rose.

A pretty bride in an Ontario town whose baptismal name is Lilian has chosen her name-flower with ferns for the floral adornment. There will be lilies, lilies everywhere, with a shower bouquet such as Titania herself might covet. The bridesmaids are to wear pale green with lilies, and the bridal table is to be centred with a huge basket of this fragile bell-like flower.

There is, too, the marguerite wedding, when the white-petalled, yellow-hearted flower, so significant of simplicity, is used to decorate hall and drawing-room and the scene of the bridal repast. Although the marguerite is not without its charms, it is rather stiff to use in any but the most conventional decoration. For flower girls, it makes a charming bouquet, and is most effective when combined with ferns.

The note in all modern floral decoration seems to be a careless grace of effect, which is in pleasing contrast to the former stiffness, which prevailed in the days when the bridal bouquet resembled a cauliflower set in a fringe of lace paper. The naturalness of the present floral scheme at a wedding is its chief charm and renders the scene one of fragrant loveliness.

There are many old sayings and superstitions in connection with weddings, which are often carried into the floral decorations. One of these showed itself in the fashion of suspending a horseshoe in roses or white carnations above the bride and bridegroom. A bride who was mindful of the old maxim that a bride must wear "something old and something new; something borrowed and something blue" wore a wreath of forget-me-nots, from which the bridal veil descended in soft and sweeping folds. Orange blossoms were for many years considered the only fitting flowers to crown the bride's hair; but their place has fairly been usurped by roses, although many brides prefer to have no floral adornment whatever for the hair.

The horseshoe has been referred to as a "luck token" in floral decoration. Probably the most frequently-used design is the bell of roses and lilies, which always suggests the glad peals of bridal music. An extremely pretty and suggestive design is the lover's knot in flowers, daintily fringed with smilax.

The flowers which are associated with the wedding scene are only a symbol of the good wishes and tender thoughts which follow the fair bride.

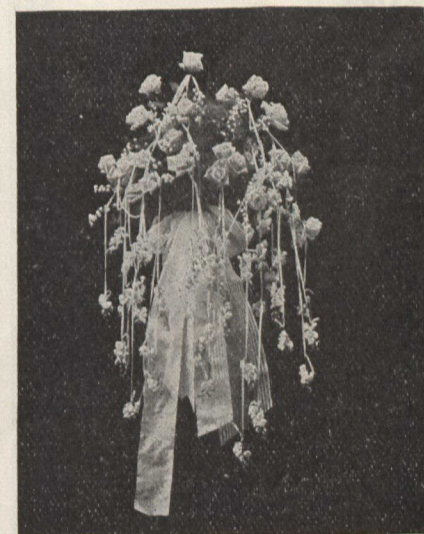
"Fling open the rose-hung portals,
Set the gate of happiness wide;
If the whole world loves the lover,
It kisses the feet of the bride."



BASKET FOR FLOWER GIRL
Marguerites can be used to good effect.



MARIE ANTOINETTE
Orchids, lily of the valley and ferns



LOUIS XIV
Made for informal or home weddings



BASKET FOR FLOWER GIRL
The ribbon to be placed over shoulder.